



# California Department of Veterans Affairs

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## NEWS FOR VETERANS

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### NEWS FROM ASSEMBLYMAN CHUCK DEVORE

#### **DEVORE RELEASES STATEMENT ON PASSING OF FORMER ASSEMBLYMAN MICKEY CONROY**

It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of a good friend and an honorable man, former Assemblyman Mickey Conroy (R-Orange).

It is fitting and appropriate to honor someone who not only faithfully served the state of California and fought for conservative principles, but who served his country in combat with distinction and valor.

Born November 1, 1927, in Footedale, Penn., he left home to enlist in the Merchant Marine in World War II. He then entered the U.S. Navy to become a naval aviator, and subsequently joined the United States Marine Corps.

Mickey made California his home after retiring in 1970 as a major in the Marine Corps. While on active duty, he became the first recipient of the Secretary of the Navy's Achievement Medal for his work with racial minorities. As a veteran, he served as president for the Marine Corps Aviation Reconnaissance Association. His fellow veterans named him "Legislator of the Year" three times for his able service.

Assemblyman Conroy always tried to do the right thing, even when it wasn't fashionable. He spoke from the heart and told it like it was. He believed in America, in the goodness of America, and he was proud of her and what she stood for.

After his election to the Assembly in 1991, he served as Chairman of the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee and led efforts to establish the Veterans National Cemetery in Riverside County. His bills on crime, worker's compensation, illegal immigration, domestic violence, and adoption saw success and were passed into law. He fought excessive taxation and government regulations, and he promoted traditional family values, especially a respect for life.

According to his former Chief of Staff, Pete Conaty, "Major Mickey Conroy was a true American hero, a devoted husband and father, loyal friend, and a decorated Marine aviator who served his country in war and peace for 21 years, then dedicated the remainder of his life to public service and ensuring that all veterans received proper healthcare, respect and thanks for their years in uniform."

He leaves behind his wife Ann, children Michael and Kathy, son-in-law Larry, and grandchildren Justin, Brandon, and Jenna.

The funeral schedule is as follows:

**September 26**

4:00-7:00 p.m. Visitation

7:00 p.m. Rosary

Saddleback Chapel

220 E. Main Street

Tustin, California 92780

**September 27**

12:10 p.m. Funeral Mass Holy Family Cathedral

566 S. Glassell Ave.

Orange, California

Interment Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Orange

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## **NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

### **GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER SIGNS LEGISLATION TO BENEFIT CALIFORNIA'S MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed legislation that will further protect California's military and their families from the potential financial hardships they face during times of conflict.

"Members of our armed forces and their families make tremendous sacrifices to keep our country safe and Maria and I are grateful for their service. We will continue to do all we can to help California's military and their families cope with the challenges they face during these difficult times of deployment," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "These bills make significant improvements in the way our state supports service members and their families."

Governor Schwarzenegger signed the following legislation:

[\*\*SB 513\*\*](#) by Senator Nell Soto (D-Pomona) - California National Guard: benefits and protection: deferral of interest on financial obligations. SB 513 shields the families of California National Guard members from financial hardship by requiring private institutions to defer any payments due on financial obligations owed by a member of the California National Guard killed in the line of duty for six months without penalty.

[\*\*AB 276\*\*](#) by Assemblymember Joe Baca Jr. (D-Rialto) - State employees: military benefits. State employees who are called to active military duty currently enjoy full pay benefits for two years of activation. Full pay benefits include the difference between the amount of the soldier's military pay and the amount received as a state employee. AB 276 provides that payments received for hazardous duty, hostile fire or imminent danger pay will not be counted as military pay and that the state employee will be entitled to retain these and any other special and incentive pay provided by the Federal government.

[\*\*AB 306\*\*](#) by Assemblymember Joe Baca Jr. (D-Rialto) - Military service: benefits. AB 306 expands and adds financial protections for service members called to active duty and ensures coverage of health insurance after service members return from their deployments.

[\*\*AB 980\*\*](#) by Assemblymember Tom Umberg (D-Anaheim) - California militia: disability benefits. AB 980 guarantees that disability benefits for members of the California National Guard injured during federal active duty will be equal to those benefits received by regular active duty military personnel.

[\*\*AB 1594\*\*](#) by Assemblymember Tom Umberg (D-Anaheim) - Military service: California National Guard

Surviving Spouses and Children Relief Act of 2004: death benefits. AB 1594 allocates monies from the general fund for the purpose of providing death benefits to the spouses and families of California National Guard members on active duty.

[AB 1666](#) by Assemblymember Dario Frommer (D-Los Feliz) - Military service: benefits. AB 1666 enacts the California Military Families Financial Relief Act. The Act provides additional protections for California National Guard members and reservists in order to alleviate the financial challenges they face upon being called to active duty. This includes requiring community colleges to refund tuition and fees or credit them to service members who have been granted an academic leave of absence during military service.

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